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FinCom discusses sewer transfer

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The finance committee discussed the transfer of \$250,000 from the sewer and capital stabilization funds to the sewer professional and legal services funds.

The committee voted unanimously to approve this transfer, which breaks down to \$200,000 from capital stabilization and \$50,000 from sewer stabilization to go to \$200,000 for sewer professional services and \$50,000 for sewer legal services.

The transfer topic was brought forward by City Councilor Michael Sullivan, who is a part of the wastewater ad hoc committee.

He wanted this transfer passed so the ad hoc committee could begin the work on sending out a request for proposal to get a new contract for the wastewater treatment plant.

Sullivan had initially

See FINCOM, page 10



Students and families at the E.N.White back-to-school social enjoyed playing on the playground as they got to also meet their teachers for the year.

Turley photo by Quinn Suomala

Students welcomed back to schools

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Public Schools welcomed all of their students back to schools with a series of meet and greets.

The schools of Holyoke allowed students to come in and get a chance to meet their new teachers for the upcoming school year.

“We’re here to welcome back families and to build excitement for the start of

the school year,” Lt. Elmer J McMahon School Principal Karyn McDermott said.

“It’s a welcome back to families,” FACE Coordinator for H.B. Lawrence School Miriam Rodriguez said.

These different back-to-school events help students to get to know their teachers before the first day of school.

For many kids, the first day of school can be nerve wracking as they do not know their new teachers. These kinds of events allow them to reduce

that anxiety, as students can get to know their teachers before that first day.

“It gives them a familiar face,” McDermott said.

For some these back to school events also allowed them to get to know their new school.

At Lt. Clayre P. Sullivan and Maurice A. Donahue Schools students were able to walk around the school and go to their homeroom classrooms.

“We want to make sure that students and families have

a chance to come in and see their new school, if they’re new, or see their new classrooms and teachers and be set up for a really strong start next week,” Sullivan Principal Rue Ratray said.

Ratray and other principals want to ensure that students and their families have strong relationships with their schools so that they feel comfortable attending and asking any questions they have.

See SCHOOLS, page 6

Veterans’ graves restorations in the works

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Veterans’ Grave Officer Wayne Klinge has started a project to restore veteran’s graves in Holyoke.

The work for this project began when Klinge went to the CPA last year in order to request grant funding so he could begin work on restoring the graves.

“We have graves in the city of Holyoke that go back to the Revolutionary War,” Klinge

said. “What’s happening is the graves are getting moldy, they get black and you can’t read them and they have a lot of deterioration. We use a solution, we clean them and we pull them up out of the ground and repair cracks.”

The CPA provided him with funding to help him get the needed supplies to begin cleaning the graves.

Klinge and other volunteers then went around to different veterans’ graves in Holyoke and took photos of

them so they could document them and what condition they were in.

Then, in June Klinge trained volunteers on how to clean the graves.

Klinge worked to bring in seniors and veterans to volunteer for this project, as there is a tax write-off program available to these groups.

If seniors and veterans volunteer 100 hours, then they can get some money off of their taxes. Klinge wanted to give some seniors and veterans a chance to get hours in for this program.

Currently, Klinge is ordering supplies and materials for cleaning more graves through the grant the CPA provided him.

Moving forward, Klinge plans to request people to come out a couple different Saturdays a month to help clean the graves.

As the people are doing this, they are also taking down the names and information on the graves. The veterans’ administration are then provid-



Graves in Holyoke date back to the Revolutionary War. An effort has started to restore veteran’s graves.

See GRAVES, page 10

HPS using My Ride K-12 for bus transportation

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Public Schools is implementing the My Ride K-12 app to help families with bus transportation.

HPS believes that this app will help with student safety, improve family to transportation service communication and help to provide information to families more efficiently.

Families can download this app by going to the app store on their phones and searching for it.

Once the app is downloaded they can create an account and access their child’s information by using their school ID. Then they will be able to access live tracking of their child’s bus.

“It will give them up-to-date busing information and allow them to communicate with the transportation department directly through the app,” Transportation Department Manager Dean Santiago said.

Santiago and the others who worked on securing this service for the school system are confident that it will improve safety, communication and efficiency in the schools.

The app can help the bus drivers with route planning, which can prevent delays and help to save the district funding.

“It creates more efficient routes, which helps with the costs for gas, thus eliminating some of the unnecessary costs that come with inefficient routes,” Santiago said.

Additionally, as the app provides real-time tracking of buses, schools and parents and guardians can monitor student safety.

Parents and guardians can ensure that their kids are ready when their bus arrives to pick them up, and they can ensure that someone is there to get the kids when they are dropped off.

This app will also help

See MY RIDE, page 10

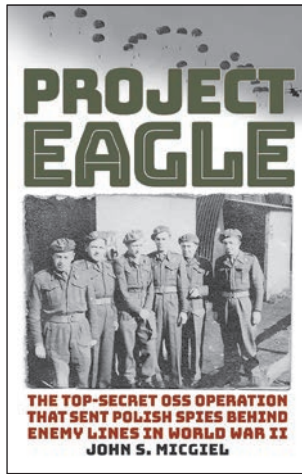


Author talk on top secret Project Eagle

HOLYOKE – Author John S. Micgiel on Monday, Sept. 9, from 5 to 7 p.m., will be giving a talk on Project Eagle: The top-secret operation that sent Polish spies behind German lines, in the Holyoke Public Library Community Room.

After the Germans had surprised Allied troops at the beginning of the Battle of the Bulge in 1944, the OSS revamped its intelligence operations in Europe and began enlisting the cooperation of volunteers from occupied countries for wartime intelligence-gathering operations. As part of Project Eagle, Polish soldiers were recruited and trained to go behind the lines of the Third Reich. Project Eagle tells this fascinating story of World War II intelligence and espionage that until now has been hidden away in the archives of the OSS. Micgiel will tell more about this history and his research on a special visit to Holyoke.

Micgiel was born and raised in Holyoke. His academic career led him to serve as director of the Institute on East Central Europe, associate director of the Harriman Institute, executive director of the Institute for the Study of Europe, and adjunct professor of international and public affairs-all at home in Connecticut.



Columbia University. He is past president of the Kosciuszko Foundation, which promotes cultural exchange between the United States and Poland. In 2011 Micgiel received the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland, an award honoring service to the Polish-American community. Now retired from Columbia University, Micgiel teaches at the University of Warsaw and makes his

Communion Breakfast to be held Sept. 29

HOLYOKE – Saint Jerome Parish is hosting its annual Communion Breakfast on Sunday, Sept. 29 at 9 a.m. at the Pope John Paul II Social Center on the Mater Dolorosa Campus.

The guest speaker is Sr. Joan Magnani, Ministry Coordinator at Jericho, The Bureau for Exceptional Children and Adults. Tickets are \$20 per person and may be purchased at all weekend Masses at St. Jerome's from Sept. 7 through Sept. 15 or by contacting the Parish Office at 413-532-6381.

Origami adventure set to unfold with lauded storyteller Motoko

HOLYOKE – On Wednesday, Sept. 18 at 5 p.m. The Holyoke Library is hosting Origami Adventures for Adults with storyteller Motoko. The event is limited to 15 participants. Please call 413-420-8101 to reserve a spot.



Motoko is an acclaimed storyteller of Asian folktales, Rakugo and Zen tales, ghost stories, mime vignettes,

and oral memoirs from her childhood in Osaka and her life as an immigrant in the U.S. She has appeared on PBS' Mr. Roger's Neighborhood, toured in Miyazaki, and has been featured in festivals and theaters across the country. In addition to storytelling Motoko is a teaching artist renowned for her contributions to classrooms.

UCCH to host Young at Heart chorus

HOLYOKE – They say that age ain't nothing but a number, and an upcoming concert at the United Congregational Church of Holyoke seeks to prove just that. UCCH will be hosting a performance by the Young at Heart Chorus on Sunday, Sept. 29, from 3 to 5 p.m.

The Young at Heart Chorus is a group of performers ages 70 years old and up who put their unique stamp on songs from legendary artists such as Bob Dylan, Aretha Franklin, the Rolling Stones, Beatles, and Pearl Jam.

Tickets for the concert are \$7 to \$15 and can be purchased by calling the church office at 413-532-1483. Learn more about the Young at Heart Chorus by

visiting www.youngatheartchorus.com.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to support activities in Holyoke that will appeal to the entire family. Free parking and shuttle service will be available. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. Come early to get the best seating. All Are Welcome.

The United Congregational Church of Holyoke is an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ. All individuals are welcome, regardless of where they are on their journey. To learn more about UCCH, please visit the website at www.uccholyoke.org, find UCCH on Facebook or Instagram, or call our office at 413-532-1483 Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Registration still open at Holyoke Community College for 2024 fall semester

HOLYOKE – Registration is now open for noncredit professional development and personal enrichment classes at Holyoke Community College for the fall 2024 semester.

The fall calendar begins Sept. 3, with individual classes running on different schedules throughout the semester.

Many are available as single sessions that cost as little as \$39.

Classes for fall include Indian cooking, wine tasting, drawing, piano, cake decorating, dance, watercolor painting, machine sewing, voiceover coaching, conversational Spanish, French, and Polish, bartending, yoga, home design,

estate planning, medical interpreting, K-1 education, retirement planning, money management, and educational technology.

Most classes meet in the Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development on the main HCC campus, 303 Homestead Ave. Cooking, wine tast-

ing, and bartending classes meet at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, 164 Race St.

To see complete fall course listings and schedules, or to register, please visit hcc.edu/bcs.

Check back often as more classes will be added as fall approaches.

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Oakdale Dental Associates, P.C. is happy to announce that **Dr Manar Al Nuwab** has joined our practice and is accepting new patients.

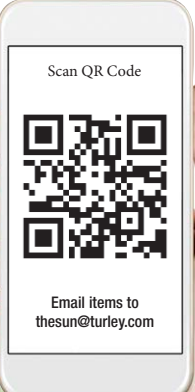
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As a free service for our readers we accept and will print when space allows community event photos and announcements. Just scan the QR code above and send us your photos and any information.

Hibernians announce fall activities

HOLYOKE – Hibernians of Hampden/Hampshire Counties have announced the following events:

Halfway to St. Patrick's Day – The public is invited to an evening of celebration and fun featuring Dee Reilly at the Glendale Ridge Vineyard, 155 Glendale Rd Southampton, Mass.; Admission is free of charge and the event will be held Tuesday Sept. 17 from 5 to 7 p.m. There will be food and wine for purchase at a cash bar. The event will be held rain or shine. Everyone is encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item to help Kate's Kitchen.

The Annual Par-3 Golf Tournament sponsored by the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians will be held on Saturday, Sept. 21. The public is invited to participate in the tournament, which will be held at Holyoke Country Club, 2 Country Club Rd., Holyoke. Golf registration begins at 9 a.m. with tee-off scheduled for 10 a.m. Lunch will be held at 12 noon. The cost for golf and lunch is \$60. The cost for lunch only is \$25. Please call Nora McMahon at (413) 218-2092 for more information. At the tournament, a collection needed items will be taken for residents of the Holyoke

Veterans Home. Please go to aoh-holyoke.com for a list of needed items.

The Annual Food and Clothing Drive for Providence Ministries will go on from Sept. 1 through Dec. 1. The Hibernians and the Polish National Credit Union are sponsoring the drive. The drop off location is at the Polish National Credit Union, 270 Westfield Rd., Holyoke. Please consider bringing non-perishable food items and gently used clothing; sleeping bags and blankets needed. Or make a donation and ask to sign up to enter a raffle for \$100 and/or a raffle basket.

HHS class of '69 holding reunion Oct. 5

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke High School Class of 1969 will be holding its 55th reunion on Saturday, Oct. 5, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 250 Westfield Road. The reunion party will begin at 5:30 p.m. with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Dinner, raffle, and cash bar, along with entertainment by Moose and the Hightops, will be provided. Tickets are \$45.

The Reunion Committee has worked to locate as many classmates as possible. To be sure everyone is invited or have questions, please contact Janice Shewchuk (413-530-9524), Marc Joyce (413-575-0597), or HOLYOKEHIGHCLASSOF1969@gmail.com.

St. Paul's Fall Festival set for Sept. 28

HOLYOKE – St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 485 Appleton St., will hold their Fall Festival on Saturday, Sept. 28, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Parish Hall and on the Church grounds.

There will be something for everyone: gift basket raffles, \$5 fundraising raffle, vendors, plants, bake sale, a cafe, and outdoor activities for families.

Free ample parking is located behind the Church and all are welcome.

For more information, please call the Church Office at 413-532-5060.

Holyoke residents to participate in Boston's Jimmy Fund walk

HOLYOKE – Two residents from Holyoke will participate in the Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk on Sunday, Oct. 6.

Bill Perry and Gabbi Perry, along with thousands of other walkers, will participate in the iconic annual event that will unite the community to raise funds to support all forms of adult and pediatric care and research at the nation's premier cancer center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The Jimmy Fund Walk has raised more than \$176 million for Dana-Farber in its 35-year history, raising a record-breaking \$9.4 million in 2023.

"For 35 years, the Jimmy Fund Walk has continuously supported life-

saving research and cancer care at Dana-Farber. Our goal is to build off of the momentum we've established throughout that history, and in 2024, aim to surpass our total from last year by raising \$9.5 million," says Caitlin Fink, assistant vice president of event fundraising. "Fighting cancer is what we do. The Walk unites our community under a common goal -to defy cancer together."

To register for the Walk (#JimmyFundWalk) or to support a walker, visit www.JimmyFundWalk.org or call (866) 531-9255. Registrants can enter the promo code NEWS for \$5 off the registration fee. All registered walkers will receive a bib, medal, and Jimmy Fund Walk T-shirt.

Library hosting new chess club

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Public Library announced it will be hosting an adult chess club beginning Tuesday, Aug. 27 from 4 to 5 p.m.

The club will be held every Tuesday in the Community Room. There is no experience necessary and all adults are welcome to come play and learn the game.

Mindfulness Yoga classes available

HOLYOKE – NAMI Western Massachusetts would like to announce Mindfulness Yoga with Kateri's third anniversary yoga series. This class is designed as a gentle, therapeutic yoga class with beginners in mind. It is easy-paced, helps reduce stress and anxiety, and aids in the management of mental health symptoms. Kateri is a certified yoga instructor and is vice president of our board of directors.

This series will be 4 weeks starting on Monday July 29 and continuing August 5, August 12, and concluding on August 19. Come celebrate Kateri's Third Anniversary, July 29, with a free yoga class. The remaining three classes are available for just \$30. Partial proceeds go to NAMI-WM. Pre-registration is required. To Register email Kateri at: mindfulnessyogawithkateri721@gmail.com.

Tourism Advisory Committee seeking applications for historic tourism plan

HOLYOKE – The Tourism Advisory Committee is pleased to announce they will be accepting proposals for projects in line with the city's Historic Tourism Plan. In 2023, the city put together the Holyoke Historic and Cultural Tourism Plan. This plan builds off the 2019 Holyoke Tourism Plan. Through the Mass Gaming Commission's Community Mitigation Fund, the TAC will now fund three to five projects (depending on funding requests) up to \$9,500 each for organizations whose projects and initiatives align with enhancing the city's historic tourism assets.

The Holyoke Tourism Plan engaged with stakeholders to determine action items that could be taken within the city to enhance Holyoke's potential for tourism. Some of these projects have already been taken on and have seen success such as the designation of the Puerto Rican Cultural District on Main Street, formation of the Tourism Advisory Committee, and developing Wayfinding studies to improve navigation and signage. Since the plan's release, Holyoke's Tourism efforts have focused on building a solid foundation. The growth of the ExploreHolyoke.com project has created a one stop platform where visitors can find all things tourism in Holyoke including a business directory, community calendar, and maps of public art.

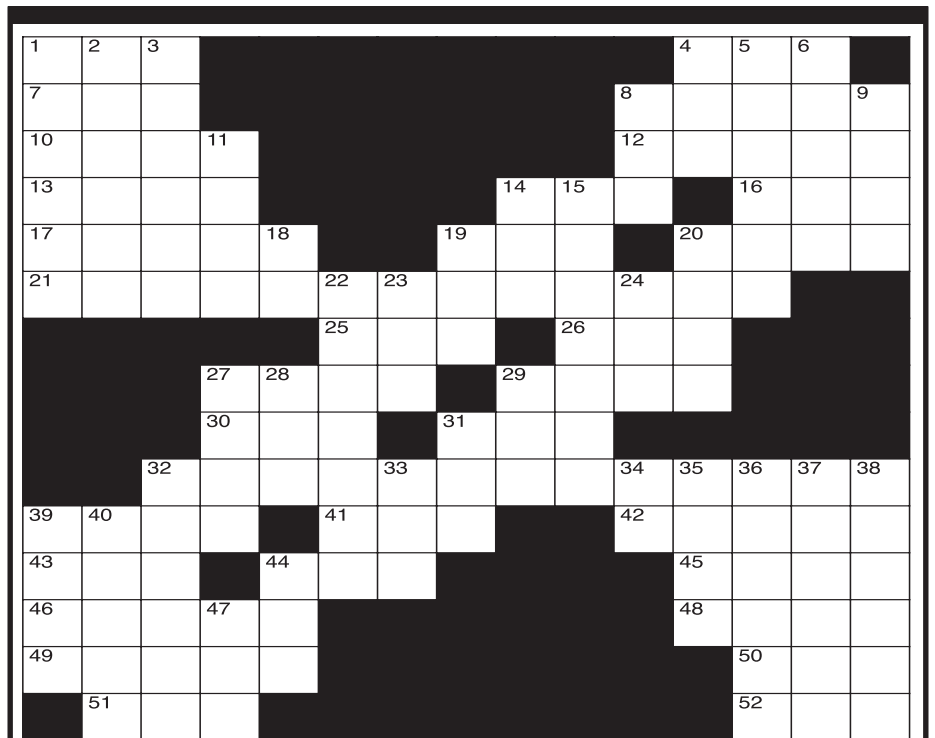
Now having the framework laid, the

TAC is ready to turn their focus to historic tourism. Historic Tourism is growing nationwide and cities like Holyoke are primed to be leaders in that sector. Holyoke has a long history and many stories to tell. From the St. Patrick's Day parade to the Fiesta de Patronales, Holyoke prides itself in celebrations of a rich cultural history. This recognition of Historic Celebrations are in line with the Mass Office of Travel & Tourism and Explore Western Mass as they prepare for the State wide celebration of the Commonwealth's 250th celebration. The opportunities are endless from historical tours, museums, public art and the new wave of virtual historic tourism.

The TAC is seeking creative proposals that are in line with the mission of the Holyoke Historic and Cultural tourism plan. These proposals may be for funding the growth of existing programs or new programs. Proposal packages must be received by Sept. 30 in order to be reviewed at the Oct. 15 Tourism Advisory Committee meeting.

Proposal packages should include: concept, budget, partners and a clear path to completion and community interaction. Projects must be completed 1 year after awarding of the grant.

For more information, please contact the Office of Planning and Economic Development keittj@holyoake.org or vegaa@holyoake.org.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Microgram
- 4. After B
- 7. Everything
- 8. An unfortunate development
- 10. Coat with sticky substance
- 12. Cylinder of tobacco for smoking
- 13. Minimum interval take off
- 14. Yuck!
- 16. NBA sensation Jeremy
- 17. Where some rockers work
- 19. Midway between northeast and east
- 20. Snake-like fishes
- 21. Groups of homes
- 25. Swiss river
- 26. Useful towel
- 27. "The Wire"
- 29. Oafish creature
- 30. A major division of geological time
- 31. Bird-like Chinese dinosaur
- 32. Sporting events
- 39. Body part
- 41. Clerical vestment
- 42. Shows data
- 43. Some are "special"
- 44. Expression of disappointment
- 45. Students' rights document (abbr.)
- 46. Vacation locale Costa ___
- 48. Pop singer
- 49. Distract outside a city
- 50. Mark Wahlberg comedy
- 51. Coniferous tree
- 52. Midway between

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Lunatic
- 2. Actress Danes
- 3. Buttock muscles
- 4. The 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet
- 5. Popular 70s rockers
- 6. Electronic communication
- 8. Trigraph
- 9. Sea eagles
- 11. Low-pitched, resonant sound
- 14. Northeastern US university (abbr.)
- 15. Home of the Bulldogs
- 18. Exclamation of surprise
- 19. Make a mistake
- 20. Advantage
- 22. Monkeys love
- 23. Wood
- 24. Paddle
- 27. Past participle of be
- 28. Tall, rounded vase
- 29. Device manufacturers
- 31. Financial institution (abbr.)
- 32. Paper product
- 33. A type
- 34. Atomic #43
- 35. Red Hot Chili Peppers' drummer
- 36. Behaviors
- 37. Decays
- 38. Walked confidently
- 39. Voice (Italian)
- 40. Class of adhesives
- 44. Bar bill
- 47. One-time aerospace firm

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 11

Guest Column



Retiree asks about his Social Security

Dear Rusty

I retired with a (gross) \$4,600 per month Civil Service Retirement System annuity from the U.S. Postal Service in December 2022. I am 66 and will attain Full Retirement Age in November of this year.

I know at that point I will not be subject to the "earnings" test, but I will be affected by the dreaded "government offset." I have earned enough quarters and will be eligible for a small social security benefit.

First question: will my Social Security benefit just be reduced or will it be eliminated? Second: will it make a difference if I apply in November or when I turn 70? I am currently working part-time and paying Social Security FICA taxes.

Third: if my SS is being eliminated, do I even have to apply? Fourth and last: I am married, filing jointly and my wife is currently receiving SS benefits (only). Could I also be affected by the "windfall" provision if my wife predeceased me?

Thank you in advance for your service as a Social Security Advisor.

Signed: Upset to Offset and Downfall to Windfall

Dear Upset

You are correct that when you reach your Full Retirement Age in November you will no longer be subject to Social Security's "earnings test," which limits how much you can earn while collecting early benefits. But if you apply for your Social Security to start in November, your SS benefits will be affected by the Windfall Elimination Provision due to your non-covered CSRS pension because you didn't pay into SS while earning your CSRS pension. As you may know, only those federal employ-

See SECURITY, page 5

Election letters to the editor welcome

The Holyoke Sun welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Holyoke Sun, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to thesun@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Friday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in The Holyoke Sun.



Guest Column

Next year I will not...



It's just about now when I feel, to some degree, embarrassed to be called the Garden Lady. You see, my garden is not as well kept as I'd like it to be. I skimped in a few areas that I shouldn't of.

As my oldest is about to enter her last year of high school I reflect back on the year of her birth, and how dismal my garden was that year. It was the first summer without a dog to keep critters at bay. We had a whole family of woodchucks eat pretty much everything in the garden.

I consoled myself by saying that I was growing a human that year and not a bunch of vegetables.

While responsibilities have changed in the fact I am no longer changing diapers or zipping up avocado and sweet potato in the blender, I'm still pretty busy with the kids and that has taken priority over a tidy garden. Usually it comes down to getting out what you put in and honestly, the garden has pretty much been on it's own since mid June. Gasp.

Maybe you can relate. So, the column today will be about what I plan to do better on next year, especially since I don't anticipate life slowing down anytime soon.

Next year I will not, absolutely not, skimp on fertilizer. My nature is to be frugal, but I will go back to the statement above of getting out what you put in.

I know that 12-foot squash vines probably need more sustenance than the few shovels of compost I put in their hills. This is evident by how pale the leaves are.

Contrast that to the self-sown decorative squash plants that grew in my compost pile comprised mainly of chicken bedding and manure. They are unbelievably healthy, replete with numerous healthy fruit.

My soil test did indicate that nitrogen was low, and I did intend to go back when I bought that new bag of blood meal and amend it further but alas I did not. Next year I will not skimp on fertilizer.

Next year I will not, absolutely not, skimp on mulch. When I looked at what was left for mulch from the previous year I figured I had enough to get by.

Wrong. Part of the reason the yard looks like a jungle is because I should have mulched thicker. Mulch serves several purposes. It covers bare soil and prevents weed seeds in the soil from seeing the light of day,

germinating and turning into a nuisance.

Mulch also breaks down over time into organic matter then humus, and feeds the soil. It also helps to conserve moisture.

Until this week we didn't really need help with that, but the abundance of rain, added to not nearly thick enough mulch, surely made for numerous weeds! Next year I will not skimp on mulch.

Next year I will not, absolutely not, let the weeds take over. The first two "will nots" relate to this paragraph entirely.

I prepped the garden and knew I should till in the old strawberry plants. I looked at a few sparse blossoms and thought, "I may get a few berries, I'll leave them in place and till them in later."

Well, the berries were few and far between but the surrounding weeds took over. Then the necrotic squash plants grew all over the weeds and the strawberry plants so I'm forced to wait until the first frost to deal with the whole mess.

I'm not sure who said it first, but it's a smart diatribe: "Do not put off until tomorrow what can be done today."

With all this said I must cut myself some slack, and if you failed anywhere along the line with your garden, you should as well. Our gardens are a work in progress and although I wish I had done a better job, I did OK.

We enjoyed some yummy green beans and I froze some kale. I did make tomato sauce on a couple of occasions and hopefully will have another chance at it and maybe I'll get a few butternuts to eat.

I know for sure I'll get some nice decorative squash, thanks to the composted chicken manure. Live and learn I guess.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 32 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



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the Sun
TEAM



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Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed.

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to thesun@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to The Sun, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

HCC STEM scholarship deadline

HOLYOKE – Students enrolled full time in chemistry, biology, engineering, mathematics, physics or other STEM fields at Holyoke Community College have until Friday, Aug. 30, to apply for a National Science Foundation scholarship of up to \$10,000 a year.

Through HCC, the National Science Foundation Scholarship offers on average \$6,500 per year to qualified full-time students and prorated amounts for part-time students.

New and current HCC students are encouraged to apply. The application deadline for the fall 2024 semester is Friday, Aug. 30.

Students chosen for the NSF scholarship become members of HCC's STEM Scholars 2.0 Program, also known as ScoRE.

STEM Scholars are expected to maintain enrollment in a STEM program, be in good academic standing, complete an associate degree at HCC, and/or transfer to an accredited STEM degree program at a four-year institution. The scholarships are renewable every year if students continue to meet the eligibility criteria.

Besides the financial awards, STEM Scholars become part of a learn-

ing community that fosters a sense of belonging and academic success, and includes mentoring, research, and honors experiences; community service; and internships.

The application and eligibility guidelines can be viewed at hcc.edu/stem-scholarship.

For more information, please email nsfstem@hcc.edu or contact one of the program coordinators: Ileana Vasu at ivasu@hcc.edu; Laurel Carpenter, lcarpenter@hcc.edu; or Vanessa Martinez, vmartinez@hcc.edu.



Velis highlights concerns new Center for Disease Control data

WESTFIELD – Ahead of students returning to the classroom this fall, the Center for Disease Control released new findings showing worsening mental health among high school aged youth over the last ten years. Sen. John C. Velis (D-Westfield) shares his concerns surrounding this alarming data and calls for continued behavioral health support in schools as he is set to resume his Youth Mental Health Listening Sessions this fall.



John Velis

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey provides a detailed analysis on a variety of health behaviors and experiences of high school aged students across the nation over the last 10 years. Nearly all indicators of poor mental health have worsened from 2013 to 2023 among high school aged students. In 2023, 40% of high school students reported feeling persistently sad or hopeless. The report also underscores continued health disparities among female and LBGTQ+ students who report higher rates of poor mental health, suicidal thoughts and behaviors than their peers.

“The CDC report really quantified what I have been hearing from local youth, parents, and educators for quite some time- our kids, particularly our teens, are really struggling,” said Velis “As our kids begin the new school year, we cannot forget how our schools are truly a force multiplier in terms of supporting and promoting our kids’ mental health.”

In 2023, Velis was instrumental in creating a Behavioral Health School Pilot Program to enable school counselors and administrators in accessing a specialist hotline for discussing behavioral health issues among students. It was recently announced that the Agawam Public Schools was selected as one of two school districts in Massachusetts where the pilot program would be launched. The creation of the pilot program was generated from feedback Velis received on his listening session tour with local schools over the past few years. Velis will be resuming his Youth Mental Health Listening Session Tour with area schools this fall.

SECURITY, from page 4

ees, who retired under CSRS are affected by WEP; newer Federal employees, who retire under the more recent Federal Employee Retirement Program program are not affected.

Because of your CSRS pension, your Social Security benefit will be reduced, but not eliminated. The amount of reduction will be based on the number of years of non-government employment you had where you paid into Social Security. Usually, those who have spent a lifetime

earning a pension without contributing to SS, but who have a separately earned SS pension, will see their SS benefit cut approximately in half.

To answer your second question, your benefit will, indeed, continue to grow if you wait until you are age 70 to claim Social Security. Benefits taken after one's FRA earn “Delayed Retirement Credits,” which add to your final benefit amount. Your benefit will still be reduced by WEP, but your final amount will be more because you waited longer to claim.

Regarding your third question, your SS benefit will only be reduced, not elim-

inated, so it's always worthwhile to apply. Otherwise, you are forfeiting Social Security money you are entitled to.

And lastly, if your wife dies before you, your CSRS pension will also cause another provision called the Government Pension Offset provision to apply. The GPO will reduce your surviving spouse benefits by 2/3rds of the amount of your government CSRS pension, which will likely eliminate any spousal benefit you are entitled to except the so-called “death benefit,” which is a one-time lump sum \$255 benefit paid to a surviving spouse).

The Association Mature Citizens

Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



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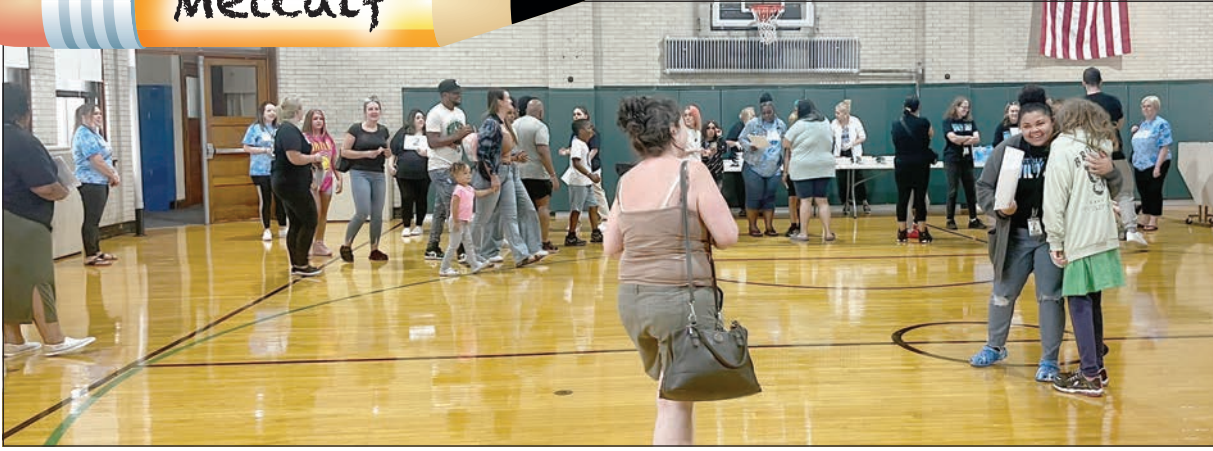
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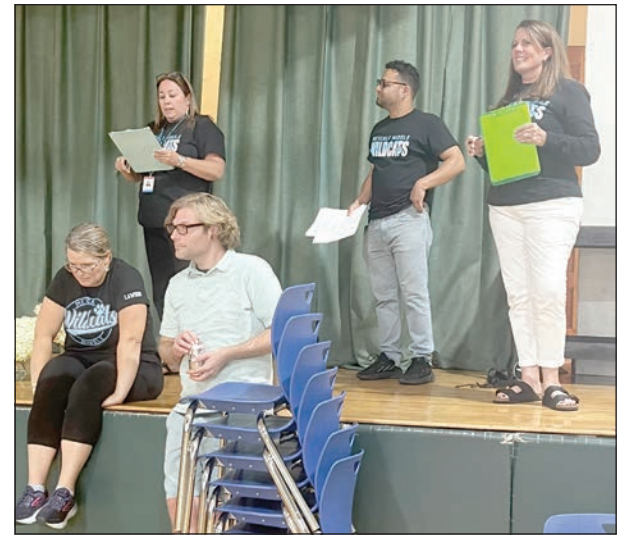
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Metcalf



Families with students attending Joseph Metcalf gathered in the gym to get a chance to meet their teachers for the year.



Joseph Metcalf Principal Katie Bourque and FACE Coordinator Rey Figueroa welcomed families to the meet and greet.



Noah Vargas and Aleyx Vernare from Pa'Lante spent their time giving out information to families.



Heather MacInnes from Scouting Across America gave out information about the Scouts.

welcome
back to
school

E.N. White



Families at the E.N. White back-to-school social were able to go through and select some free books.



Students and their families lined up to get ice cream and an E.N. White t-shirt.



Families could get information from different vendors about what programs are available for families.

Donahue



A variety of vendors came to Maurice A. Donahue's back-to-school event to give out information to families.

Turley photos by Quinn Suomala



Above, families lined up outside of Maurice A. Donahue to attend the back-to-school event where they got to meet their teachers and see their classrooms. Right, Diane Griffiths, Jenny Rivera and Launa Kazeroid from Maurice A. Donahue passed out snacks to families in attendance.



SCHOOLS, from page 1

These events help the schools to begin building these relationships with students and families.

"If it's a new relationship we want to start building that right away and if it's an existing relationship we want to check-in over the summer and make sure that families are seeing the new teachers they're working with," Rattray said.

"I like for families to get to know teachers and community partners and so kids can break the nerves of the first day of school," FACE Coordinator Rey Figueroa said.

All the principals and staff at HPS look forward to these events so they can see all the students coming back and greeting the people they know and care for.

Many students eagerly greeted their old teachers during these events, and got to reconnect with their friends from school.

Each school had different small activities for kids to participate in as they came into the schools.

For example, at McMahon school children were able to get popcorn, snow cones, play on bounce houses and line up to meet their new teachers.

At Lawrence there was popcorn

and games for the students to play with some of the staff.

At E.N. White children were able to enjoy ice cream from the ice cream social and they had the opportunity to pick out some free books and get an E.N. White t-shirt.

Joseph Metcalf provided families with food donated by Crave, which had been organized by Figueroa.

Additionally, the schools gave out information to the gathered children and their parents. This included information on how the new transportation app works, different after school programs and the students' schedules.

"There are lots of options for stu-

dents to have safe, fun places to go after school," McDermott said. "All programs have a combination of academics and enrichment."

"It's important for the kids and families to have access to these agencies and for them to know they have places to go outside of school," Figueroa said.

The first day of school is set for Aug. 26 for students in grades one through twelve. For those in pre-k and kindergarten, the first day of school is Sept. 4.

To keep updated on the calendar for the schools this year, go to the HPS website at <https://www.hps.holyoke.ma.us/>.



Volunteer Coordinator Dave Haslam informed families about the programs Homework House offers.



June Lavelle and Bryant D'Amours from Lt. Elmer J McMahon School worked to run the snow cone machine.



Chelsea Morris and Kalmarie Fuentes from Girls Inc. gave out information at the Lt. Elmer J McMahon School.



Children and their families arrived at Lt. Elmer J McMahon School to receive information about their teachers for this upcoming school year.



Arianna Piedra and Sonia Soares from the Boys and Girls Club told families about their program.



Teachers and staff at Lt. Clayre P. Sullivan School helped students to find their homeroom classrooms for the school year at the back-to-school event.



Program Coordinator from Families First Yamaris Rivera shared information about her organization.



Operations Coordinator of the Boys and Girls Club Sean Sabourin helped families learn about the programs available.



Dean of Students Valerie Rene-Joseph welcomed students to H.B. Lawrence School.



Families at H.B. Lawrence got to play some games and enjoy popcorn at the back to school event.



Families were welcomed back to H.B. Lawrence School.

Turley photos by Quinn Suomala

SPORTS

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Knights readying for new season

HOLYOKE – On a hot Tuesday afternoon, Holyoke High School football continued its work to prepare for the regular season. The Knights have already had one scrimmage

against SICS. The Knights are set to play on a Thursday night for its season opener, scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 12 at 7 p.m. at home against Pittsfield.



Avantey Rivera makes a run on offense.
Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Devin Velez practices a handoff.



Reinaldo Andino makes a great catch.



Jayderson Lugo tries to escape a pair of defenders.

HHS volleyball ready to roll

HOLYOKE – Holyoke High School girls volleyball has been a perennial contender to reach the state tournament, and this year should be no dif-

ferent. The Knights have been practicing since last week and are very busy right out of the gate with a pair of games next week.

Holyoke opens the season on the road at Mt. Everett in the Berkshires Tuesday, then come home on Thursday afternoon and host Ware at 5 p.m.



Serymar Santos practices sets during practice Tuesday.



Holyoke girls volleyball gets ready for the regular season as practices continue this week.
Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Aurieliz Resto gets a bump off.



Leyska Rodriguez sets the ball straight up.

Thunderbirds announce series of front office promotions

SPRINGFIELD – With Opening Night less than two months away, the Springfield Thunderbirds proudly announced that six veteran front office staff members will take on promotions to their roles for the 2024-25 season.

Last season, the team achieved multiple franchise milestones, including all-time Springfield hockey records in average attendance per game (6,321), sellout games (20), season ticket members, and group sales revenue. The team ended the 2023-24 season by posting an incredible 14 consecutive sellouts.

Jessica Hansen has been promoted to Senior Director of Finance and Human Resources. Hansen, an alumna of Western New England University and a native of Feeding Hills, Mass., has been on the Thunderbirds staff since 2017. In addition to her finance and HR responsibilities, she has been integral in growing the team's in-game charitable presence through 50/50, jersey raffle, and Chuck-a-Puck sales. She has also served a supervisory role in the club's charitable foundation matters and merchandise.

Drew Supernor has been promoted to Senior Manager of Brand Development & Merchandise. A Springfield native and Springfield College alumnus, Supernor has grown the Thunderbirds' merchandise revenues each season since the club's inception in 2016 through many unique product lines, such as the team's various specialty night rebrands throughout the year. In 2023-24, the team generated six times greater revenue in merchandise when compared to the final season of the Springfield Falcons in 2015-16. In recognition of his customer service and dedication, Supernor was honored with a 2024 Howdy Award for hospitality excellence this past May.

Lauren Blanchard has been promoted to Senior Account Executive, Groups and Experiences. An Agawam, Mass. native, Blanchard joined the Thunderbirds in 2021 and has set multiple team records for group tickets, including the most sold for a single game. Thanks to Blanchard's efforts and the entirety of the ticket sales department, the Thunderbirds' group sales

revenue has grown 77% over the last six years. The department spearheaded the franchise to the 2021-22 President's Award for AHL Team of the Year. Blanchard was also nominated for a 2024 Howdy Award for hospitality excellence.

Shae Koharski has been promoted to Manager of Social Media & Digital Marketing. A Russell, Mass. native, Koharski has been with the Thunderbirds since 2021. She has exponentially grown Thunderbirds' social media accounts, as the club has eclipsed 80,000 followers across X, Facebook, and Instagram. Her acumen for social media trends has allowed the Thunderbirds' social media to not only provide fun content for fans, but grow the brand in the marketplace while evolving to current trends.

Lucas Armstrong has been promoted to Art Director. An East Amherst, N.Y. native, Armstrong has been instrumental in creating and implementing the



Thunderbirds' graphic design as a "keeper of the brand" since joining the organization in 2019. An industry veteran with over 20 years of experience across professional sports and nationally acclaimed brands, Armstrong's work alongside his creative colleagues was recognized with the AHL's Marketing Campaign of the Year award in 2022 for the club's "We Are 413" tagline.

Steve Brousseau has been promoted to Account Executive, Membership Sales & Service. A Springfield College alumnus and a native of Freeport, Maine, Brousseau joined the team full-time in 2021 after interning for the organization previously. An exemplary builder of relationships with his ticket members, Brousseau will specialize in servicing the Thunderbirds' season ticket members throughout the 2024-25 season as the organization looks to break its season ticket holder record for a ninth consecutive season.

MY RIDE, from page 1

schools to more easily communicate with parents and guardians, which will help in an emergency situation and help reduce the number of calls to the school's transportation department.

"The best thing about the app is communication and relaying of information," Santiago said. "We can let parents know when buses are running later or when there have been changes to something...and parents can better plan their days when it comes to childcare and day-to-day schedules."

Santiago also hopes that by using this app parents and guardians can reduce the amount of time their students have to wait outside for the bus, especially on days with rainy or cold weather.

"They can track the bus as it gets closer and be outside right as it arrives," Santiago said.

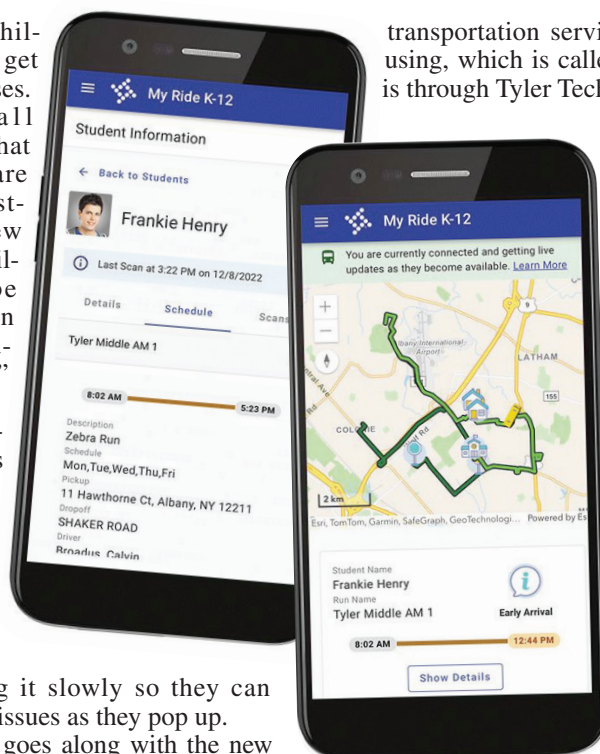
Currently, Santiago and the others at the transportation department are working to allow parents and guardians to

track their children as they get on and off buses.

"Not all buses have that ability, we are currently testing on a few buses, but children will be checked-in and checked-out of a bus," Santiago said.

This system takes more coordination with students and staff, so the transportation department is implementing it slowly so they can work out any issues as they pop up.

This app goes along with the new



transportation service that HPS is using, which is called Traversa and is through Tyler Technologies.

The work to implement these programs began about two years ago. Santiago and the transportation department compared the old transportation system with new ones to see what would best benefit the district.

They then ensured that the computer opera-

tions could support the new system and ensured they got approval from the city and the city council to move forward with the work.

From there they moved to collect data on the routes themselves, how they were done and what improvements could come from switching to a new system.

They also worked to train the transportation department, schools and the transportation service providers trained in how to use the app.

Santiago was grateful for the support from Durham Student Transportation Services.

"We had to really cooperate as a team in order to get this all done," Santiago said.

If parents and guardians have questions they can go to the transportation section of the school website, which can be found at <https://www.hps.holyoke.ma.us/>.

If they have further questions, they are also welcome to reach out via email at transportation@hps.holyoke.ma.us

FINCOMM, from page 1

brought this matter before the full city council at their meeting on Aug. 6, but they wanted to discuss it in committee before approving this large of a transfer.

Sullivan emphasized the importance of approaching this transfer quickly so the ad hoc committee could get right to work in putting out an RFP.

"This transfer is to provide the DPW and the ad hoc committee with the services that we need now," Sullivan said. "It's going to be quite a bit different than the last 20 years, we're trying to address issues such as stormwater separation, climate change and all the other things that are affecting the city."

The new contract for the wastewater treatment plant could be a key economic opportunity for the city.

"There is a lot of new technology out there that is a lot more complicated... and it could be a great benefit to the city if done properly," Sullivan said. "Some of the ideas out there are: building an anaerobic digester as part of our treatment, as this produces green electricity... it also could market fertilizer."

The plant could generate revenue and create jobs for the city. There is also the idea of collecting a tipping fee, which could keep the rate down for the residents of Holyoke.

Some members of the committee

wondered if there would be any benefit to extending the current contract and putting this matter out for an RFP at a later time.

Wastewater Ad Hoc Committee Member Brian Beauregard explained that this would only cost the city more money in the long run.

"If you extend it then you're sitting here five years later, four years into the next contract, and at that point there are absolutely no extensions or anything else allowed, so you'd have to get back out and go for another 20-year contract," Beauregard said. "That's our biggest concern, this plant needs major work and it's hard to fit major work in a short time frame."

City Councilor Howard Greaney wondered why the transfer was being split between the sewer stabilization fund and the capital stabilization fund.

Mayor Joshua Garcia explained that the sewer stabilization fund has a limited amount of money. They are withdrawing about half through the \$50,000 transfer and want to leave the remaining funds in case of any further needs.

Therefore, taking the remaining needed funds from the capital stabilization fund makes the most sense.

With this in mind, the finance committee approved the transfer and sent it back to the full city council where they will address the matter at their next meeting.

GRAVES from page 1

ing Klinge with a plaque that they can place beside the gravestones, so that any graves that are too damaged can still have easily visible information on them.

"I don't like the idea of taking an old gravestone out and putting a new gravestone in," Klinge said. "I can keep the original gravestone there, no matter how deteriorated they are and I can have a plaque beside it saying who they are so it's the original stone."

The volunteers and Klinge will prioritize restoring graves based on what condition they are in, but Klinge emphasized that they will work to get to all graves.

"Every veteran will be taken care of, no matter whether it is a private or public cemetery," Klinge said.

Klinge also emphasized how important it is to have this work be done. He wants to ensure that veterans are honored for all they have done for the country.

"They gave for this country, whether it was peacetime or war, they gave for this country, they gave part of their life to this country," Klinge said. "I need to show my respect for them."

Additionally, as a veteran himself Klinge knows how important this work is for veterans and their families. He wants to ensure that all of these veterans and their sacrifices are not forgotten.

"They went through so much to give this country its growth, to give you and me the ability to do what we're doing," Klinge said. "They went through things we can't even imagine to give us the ability to have the right to be whatever we wanted to be."

Moving forward, Klinge hopes to get a consistent group of people dedicated to this work so that even when he has to step down, the movement continues.

"When I leave, there'll be others behind me that have the same passion that I have," Klinge said.

As this project moves forward, the state will be funding the efforts. Klinge is grateful to the CPA for giving him the funds to start up the project and for assisting him in securing the further state funding.

For people interested in helping with this project, Klinge will be putting up notices in newspapers, at veterans legions and on social media once he is prepared to take on more volunteers.

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HELP WANTED

The Trustees of the Otis Library seek applicants for a **Library Director Position.** The position pays \$21-\$25 per hour commensurate with experience. The Director can expect to work between 25-30 hours per week. An application packet is available by emailing **otislibrary@cwmares.org** or at the **Otis Library at 48 North Main Road, Otis, MA 01253. (413) 269-0109.** The application deadline is September 13, 2024. The Otis Library Board of Trustees is an equal opportunity employer.

TOWN OF WORTHINGTON HIGHWAY POSITION OPENING
The Town of Worthington is soliciting letters of interest from qualified candidates to fill two full-time **Equipment Operator/General Laborer** positions in the Town Highway Department. Valid MA CDL operator, Hydraulic Hoister's licenses and OSHA-10 certification is preferred.

Further information can be found on the Town's website:
www.worthington-ma.us

Questions will be answered by the Highway Superintendent at 64 Huntington Road, Monday - Friday, 7 AM to 3 PM; the telephone number is 413-238-5830.

Send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to: **worthingtonhighway@gmail.com** or to Worthington Highway Department, P. O. Box 643, Worthington, MA. This posting will remain pertinent until the position is filled.

The Town of Worthington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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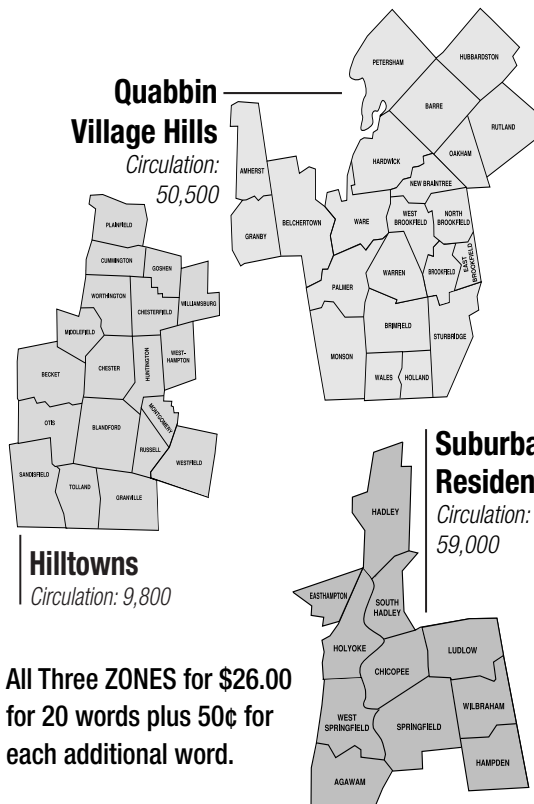
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or call: 413-283-8393

DEADLINES: MONDAY AT NOON

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

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Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
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Tech High reunion set for Sept. 28

SPRINGFIELD – The spirit and comradery of Springfield’s Tech High School is alive and well as they gear up for another exciting reunion on Saturday, September 28 at the Elks Lodge #61 at 440 Tiffany Street from noon to 6 p.m. The reunion is open to all Tech classes and friends.

An outside barbecue will be held rain or shine under the lodge’s pavilion and a special tent. The BBQ will include hot dogs, hamburgers, sausage and peppers, salads, dessert and more. Cash bar. Free parking and handicap accessible.

A fun-filled afternoon will include a live band and dancing, cornhole and bocce games, raffles and time to reminisce with friends over the years and make new friends as well. Donations

will be accepted for raffle prizes.

According to committee chair Mike Borecki, “Last year we had a terrific turnout of over 300 people and we anticipate a larger group this year. We’re thrilled that the Tech Spirit is alive and well and look forward to many years to come”.

Seating is limited and tickets are \$25 each. All are on a first come, first served basis. Open seating. For tickets call Mike Borecki ’72 at 413-351-6572, Dawn Duncan ’71 at 413-896-3930, Paul Montefusco ’69 at 413-596-6607, or Matt Villamaino ’67 at 413-896-2206. We’re always looking for volunteers. If interested, contact Mike Borecki.

Located on Elliot Street in Springfield, MA Technical High School was founded in 1906 and closed in 1986.

Run Stanley 5k scheduled to take place on Oct. 6

WESTFIELD – Come Run, Stroll and Roll. Stanley Park will be hosting the 12th Annual Run Stanley which has grown into a fun yearly tradition for the whole family, whether they like to run, walk, roll, or bark.

Join in for this all-inclusive event on Sunday, Oct. 6, at 10 a.m. at Stanley Park. This event includes the 5K trail run/walk, a 5K K9 trail run/walk, the Munchkin Run hosted by Dunkin’ Donuts, and The Stroll & Roll. The Stroll & Roll is a wheelchair friendly 1-mile non-competitive walk through Stanley Park’s accessible pathways.

There is also the Stanley Cup School Spirit trophy for the school with the most

participation in Run Stanley. Form a team and get friends and family involved. When you register, be sure to enter your school name.

Run Stanley 2024 continues the fundraising efforts to benefit the care of the Frank Stanley Beveridge Wildlife Sanctuary. Please join the community of runners, walkers, hikers, dog owners, and nature lovers of all ages who care about Stanley Park for a fun event that will help to improve the safety and accessibility of its wildlife trails.

Registration is now open! You can register by going to <https://runsignup.com/Race/MA/Westfield/RunStanley>.

Public Notices

City of Holyoke Legal Notice

The Holyoke License Board will be holding a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, September 4, 2024, at 5:15 pm.** You can join via Zoom.com; ID 885 2208 8943; CALL IN: *67 646 558 8656 or in person at Holyoke Media 1 Court Plaza, regarding the application for a **Application for a Transfer of an Off-Premises Beer & Wine License for F&M Hideway, Inc. DBA Schermerhorn’s at 224B Westfield Road,** pursuant to M.G.L. Ch.138.

Applicant:
F&M Hideway, Inc.
License Board:
Anthony Luciano,
Chairman
08/23, 08/30/2024

City of Holyoke Legal Notice

The Holyoke License Board will be holding a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, September 4, 2024, at 5:15 pm.** You can join via Zoom.com; ID 885 2208 8943; CALL IN: *67 646 558 8656 or in person at Holyoke Media 1 Court Plaza, regarding the application for an **Application for a Transfer of an On-Premises Beer & Wine License for F&M Hideway, Inc. DBA Schermerhorn’s Seafood Restaurant at 224B Westfield Road,** pursuant to M.G.L. Ch.138.

Applicant:
F&M Hideway, Inc.
License Board:
Anthony Luciano,
Chairman
08/23, 08/30/2024

City of Holyoke Legal Notice

The Holyoke License Board will be holding a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, September 4, 2024, at 5:15 pm.** You can join via Zoom.com; ID 885 2208 8943; CALL IN: *67 646 558 8656 or in person at Holyoke Media 1 Court Plaza, regarding the application for a **New Seasonal All Alcohol Application for Sixty-Six Corporation at 56 Jackson Street,** pursuant to M.G.L. Ch.138.

Applicant:
Sixty-Six Corporation
License Board:
Anthony Luciano,
Chairman
08/23, 08/30/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court

50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758

Docket No. HD24P1780EA Estate of: Joan Carol Champagne Date of Death: 04/10/2024 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Gerald L. Champagne of Easthampton, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Gerald L. Champagne of Easthampton, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/18/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: August 21, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani,

Register of Probate
08/30/2024

2025-06SD Request for Quotes New Asphalt Basketball Half-Court

The Holyoke School Department is soliciting proposals to install a new asphalt half-court basketball court with regulation lines, hoop installation and the site work required for installation. The work is located at Sullivan School 400 Jarvis Avenue, Holyoke MA 01040.

Full documents can be requested by emailing sweeneye@holyokeye.org. Documents are available on 8/21/2024 after 10:00 AM. **A recommended, non-mandatory site visit will be held on 9/4/24 at 10:00 AM at Sullivan School 400 Jarvis Avenue, Holyoke MA 01040.**

Quote Submissions are due **NO LATER THAN 2:00 PM on 9/12/2024**, quotes will be accepted electronically by email to sweeneye@holyokeye.org. The City of Holyoke follows all applicable state, federal and local purchasing laws, and reserves the right to reject any and all quotes.
08/30/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD24P1745EA Estate of:

Robert H Konsewicz Date of Death: 07/22/2024 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **JoAnne M Gauthier of Holyoke, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

JoAnne M Gauthier of Holyoke, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute

formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
08/30/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD24P1747EA Estate of:

Sandra Ann Parent Also Known As: Sandra A Parent Date of Death: 07/20/2024 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Keith A Parent of Southwick, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Keith A Parent of Southwick, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
08/30/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758

Docket No. HD24C0263CA In the matter of: Lissette Valentin Santiago CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME A Petition to Change

Name of Adult has been filed by **Lissette Valentin Santiago of Holyoke, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Lissette Aponte Santiago IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/12/2024.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: August 15, 2024

Rosemary A Saccomani Register of Probate

08/30/2024

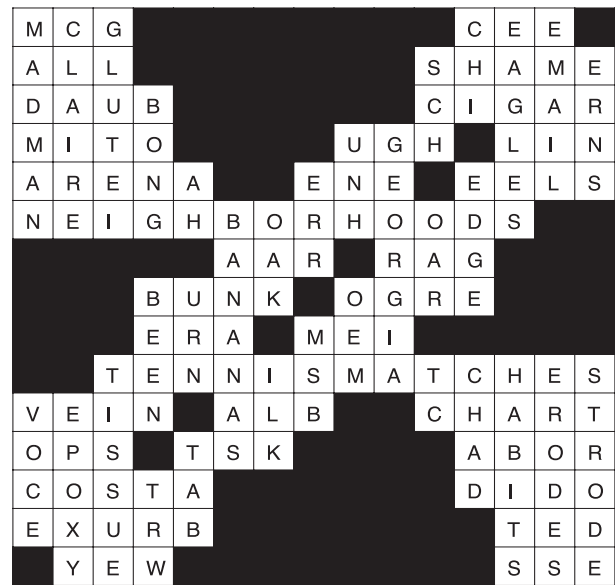
City of Holyoke RFP# 2025-07OPED Request for Proposals Explore Holyoke Website and Social Media Management Services

The City of Holyoke, Massachusetts, seeks proposals from qualified firms

to provide website hosting, website maintenance, SEO, social media content management and support for the Explore Holyoke tourism and information website located at <https://www.exploreholyokeye.com/>

Full documents can be requested by emailing sweeneye@holyokeye.org. Documents are available on 8/28/2024 after 10:00 AM.

Respondents must submit one (1) original unbound single-sided copy of their unpriced technical proposal, and one (1) original copy of a separately sealed envelope containing the price proposal, certificate of non-collusion, and certificate of tax compliance and all required forms by September 17, 2024 at 2:00 PM to the attention of: **Edward J Sweeney**, Chief Procurement Officer, City of Holyoke 536 Dwight Street, Room 3 Holyoke, MA 01040. Proposals that are faxed, emailed, or late will not be accepted. Price proposals and technical proposals must be submitted in separate envelopes.
08/30/2024



The Holyoke Sun OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Fanning captures win in Street Stocks at Thompson

THOMPSON, CT – A perfect Wednesday, Aug. 14 afternoon in the quiet corner of Connecticut brought the fans in droves for the annual NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Wednesday night showcase at Thompson Speedway. The Thompson 150 presented by FloSports headlined a seven division card of racing on Wednesday night that also included a fan-favorite visit for the New England Supermodified Series and the five track championship divisions that call Thompson home throughout the season.

The Street Stocks started off the evening's feature racing with Scott Sundeen at the head of the pack. Sundeen powered up looking to nab his first win of the season followed by Al Stone III, 'Leadfoot' Larry Barnett and Corey Fanning nose-to-tail behind him. The lone caution on lap 12 for the spinning Tim Poulin set up a final showdown between Sundeen and Fanning with Corey Fanning powering through to the win with Ryan Waterman making moves to take second and Al Stone III holding on for third.

Following NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour qualifying the Mini Stocks took on the highbanks with Steve Michalski and Rick LaFlesh. LaFlesh got the jump into the lead as heavy-hit-

ters Jared Roy and Kevin Moore battled for second just inches off LaFlesh's back bumper. Roy sling-shot into the lead powering out of turn four under the halfway crossed-flags. Jared Roy would put the peddle down to return to his winning ways followed by Kevin Moore and Ryan Pomposelli.

Rookie Isaiah Newcomb brought the Thompson Sunoco Modifieds to the green flag with Jon Puleo quickly launching the head of the pack. By lap five, Todd Owen had charged up to second and began stalking the youngster with a few love taps on the bumper. Owen would charge under Puleo to lead lap seven with Puleo left to fend off Keith Rocco for second. Puleo would use the cross-over to lead lap 13 with Rocco and Owen getting physical for second. Content to run 1-2-3, the leaders waited for laps to wind down in their 30-lap main event and took it right down to the checkered flags with Jon Puleo taking his fifth win of the season followed by Keith Rocco and Todd Owen in victory lane.

Bobby Timmons and Jim Storace brought the New England Supermodified Series to green for their 30-lap main event. The heart-stopping move of the race would come on lap 4 as Ben Seitz and Dan Bowes

took Storace three-wide, shooting off turn two and down the back straightaway with Bowes coming out with the lead. Coming from mid-pack, Jon McKenney also rounded Storace to take third, made the long march to take on Seitz and dove underneath to take position on lap 21. With a straightaway lead Dan Bowes took the win just nine lightning-fast laps later followed by McKenney and Seitz at the line.

Fast time, Mayhew Tools polesitter Patrick Emerling brought the 26-car NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour field to green and quickly shot out front ahead of Craig Lutz. Dave 'Sap' Sapienza brought out the first caution on lap 20 with a flat right rear sending him in the spin-cycle in turn three. Emerling would maintain the lead under the return to green flag racing with a rear-view mirror full of Justin Bonsignore. The leaders would begin taking on lap traffic on lap 53 but remained settled in for the long-haul strategy. The second caution on lap 60 for the spinning Woody Pitkat off turn two saw the entire field jump pit-side for tires and adjustments in preparation for the second half of the Thompson 150 presented by FloSports.

Patrick Emerling again maintained his lead position by an impatient Justin Bonsignore began to show his hand, diving

under Emerling in a look to the near future. Jake Johnson would slam into the turn one wall on lap 76 from mid-pack with an apparent mechanical failure to rerack the field once more. The subsequent restart saw top-5 runner Chase Dowling quickly fall through the field with obvious issues under the hood to swamp a great day for the Tinio Motorsports group as Emerling continued to dominate at the front. The final stretch would see Patrick Emerling dominant the Thompson 150 presented by FloSports for his fifth career NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour win and first at Thompson Speedway followed by Justin Bonsignore and Craig Lutz.

The AZ Roofing SK Light Modifieds and the Late Models wrapped up the Wednesday night racing action at Thompson. Cautions plagued the opening circuits of the SK Light feature, taking out point leader Tyler Chapman and rookie Steve Midford, leaving Meghan Fuller to battle Nick Hovey and John O'Sullivan. Nick Hovey would motor around Fuller for his first win of the season with John O'Sullivan coming home third. The Late Model 25-lap sprint would see Derek Gluchacki charge ahead of the field to take back-to-back wins followed by Nick Johnson and Matt Lowinski-Loh.

Former Red Sox prospect leads new baseball camp

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM – Many sports camps were held throughout Western Massachusetts during the past several months.



Alex Nunlist fields a grounder.



Catcher TJ Ryan catches a ball at the plate.

The Summer Sendoff Baseball Camp took place on the baseball fields at Spec Pond in Wilbraham from August 19-22. The camp was run by Dustin Brisson, who played Minor League Baseball for the Boston Red Sox.

"I held a couple of private baseball clinics with Doug Clark, who's the WooSox hitting coach, during the offseason," Brisson said. "I spoke with the Wilbraham Parks & Recreation Department about holding a baseball camp during the summertime. All these kids just love playing the game of baseball. I really wanted them to have high quality instruction and the resources to be successful."

Brisson was aided at the four day camp by Bryan Barnowski, Ace Adams, Gary Burnham, who was an All-American baseball player at Clemson University, and Dan Gomez, who's the head baseball coach at Western New England University. Minnechaug Regional varsity baseball coach Mike Netkovich worked at the camp for one day. Ray Fagnant, who's the Boston Red Sox Northeast Regional Scouting Supervisor, also attended the camp for a day. Fagnant grew up in Chicopee.

About 40 baseball players between the ages of 6-16 from Wilbraham and the surrounding communities attended the inaugural baseball camp.

"We have a few kids from South Hadley, Agawam, and East Longmeadow at this camp," Brisson added. "This is a very good group of kids to work with. All of them listen to us and they're having a lot of fun."

The players were split up into two groups.

"We play a lot more games with the younger kids, who are in grades 1-5," Brisson said. "We do more skills with the older kids."

Brisson, who was born in Florida, played college baseball at the University of Central Florida from 1997-2000. He also played baseball in the prestigious Cape Cod League and is a member of PeoplesBank, which captured another Tri-County League championship title this summer.

He was drafted by the New York Mets and the Miami Marlins before signing with the Red Sox.

He advanced to Double A before his professional baseball career came to an end due to an injury.

"I was blessed to have the opportunity to play professional baseball," Brisson said. "I'm now doing what I can to give back."

Brisson also owns Forge Athletics. "I started Forge Athletics back in May," he said. "I want to run more baseball clinics in the future. I'm also looking forward to running this baseball camp again next year."

Barnowski, who lives in Southwick, was one of Brisson's teammates at the Single A level.

Bryan and I were teammates on a Single A team," Brisson said. "His sister and my wife have been friends for 40 years. I met my wife when I went to visit him during the offseason, and we've been married for 22 years. My wife's family is from Wilbraham, and we

moved here in 2005. We love living in this community."

Because it rained on the first day, the camp was held indoors down the street at the Soccer City Sportscenter.

"Soccer City isn't really designed for baseball, but we made the best of it on the first day of the camp," Brisson said. "The people there were very accommodating. We were able to use both of their soccer fields. We were able to have a full workout. The only thing that we didn't do was to have a live batting practice. The baseball fields here at Spec Pond is one of the best in the area."

Brisson main goal was to teach the players the fundamentals of baseball. He and his staff also held a meeting each morning to map out the schedule for that day.

"My main goal is to teach the players the basic fundamentals of the game," he said. "I also want to keep the kids active. I really don't want them standing around doing nothing. We also talked to the kids about mental health."

Brayden Pacifico, who lives in Wilbraham, had a lot of fun at the baseball camp.

"It's awesome being here with my friends at this baseball camp," said Pacifico, who's a centerfielder. "I've learned a lot about baseball from the coaches, who have a lot of experience. Baseball is my favorite sport."

Baseball was also Brisson's favorite sport growing up. He was also a swimmer and a wrestler.

"I always tell kids to play multiple sports," Brisson said. "My daughter, Natalie, who's six years old, plays soccer and is a swimmer. We want her to experience everything. A lot of kids who only play one sport get burned out very quickly."

Brisson and his staff are already looking forward to holding the baseball camp again next summer.



Parker Duquette dives for a catch.



Wesley Beer lunges for a catch.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com